



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

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ANDREA SHERIDAN ORDIN  
County Counsel

November 18, 2010

TO: SACHI A. HAMAI  
Executive Officer  
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: JOHN F. KRATTLI   
Senior Assistant County Counsel

RE: **Jennifer Johnson v. County of Los Angeles**  
**Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. NC 042 847**

Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and the Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, the Case Summary, and the Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisor's agenda.

JFK:rfm

Attachments

## Board Agenda

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Jennifer Johnson v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. NC 042 847, in the amount of \$275,000 and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical negligence lawsuit arises from treatment received by a patient while hospitalized at the Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

## CASE SUMMARY

### INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Jennifer Johnson v. County of Los Angeles, et al.
CASE NUMBER	NC 042847
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court - South District
DATE FILED	July 2, 2009
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$275,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Marc Lazarus, Esq. Russell & Lazarus
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Narbeh Bagdasarian
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On June 20, 2008, Jennifer Johnson was involved in an automobile accident. She was transferred to Harbor UCLA Medical Center ("HUMC") for treatment of her injuries.</p> <p>In August 2008, Ms. Johnson presented to a non-County facility with complaints to her left shoulder. In November 2008, Ms. Johnson underwent surgery on her left shoulder in a non-County hospital.</p>

Ms. Johnson filed a medical malpractice action against the County of Los Angeles claiming that in June 2008, the HUMC staff did not adequately treat her left shoulder injuries.

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE

\$71,772.75

PAID COSTS, TO DATE

\$11,483.60

Case Name: Johnson, Jennifer



## Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	6/20/08
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	On June 20, 2008, Jennifer Johnson was involved in a vehicle accident. She was transferred to Harbor/UCLA Medical Center for treatment of her injuries. In August 2008, Ms. Johnson presented to a non-County facility with complaints in her left shoulder. In November 2008, Ms. Johnson underwent surgery on her left shoulder in a non-County hospital.

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

Non-treatment of a shoulder injury resulting in a delay in repair.

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:  
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- Appropriate personnel actions were taken
- Education was provided to facility clinicians for identification of musculoskeletal injuries.

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:  
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance)

- Potentially has Countywide implications.
- Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- X Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

County of Los Angeles  
Summary Corrective Action Plan

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Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
<i>Kimberly McKenzie</i>	
Signature:	Date:
<i>Kimberly McKenzie</i>	<i>9/28/10</i>

Name: (Department Head)	
<i>Carol Meyer for John Schunhoff</i>	
Signature:	Date:
<i>Carol Meyer</i>	<i>10/15/10</i>

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name:	
<i>Robert Chavez</i>	
Signature:	Date:
<i>Robert Chavez</i>	<i>9/29/10</i>

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